In recent times the number of intermarriages in the family has decreased among European Jews. In Hungary, before the War, the official licence necessary for a marriage between cousins, uncle and niece, or aunt and nephew, was applied for by Jews more often than by non-Jews; but in the period 1927-1929 the proportion of marriages within these degrees was only 3-22 per thousand with the Jews as against 4-35 with the non-Jews. This change is partly due to the growing recognition of the danger of marriage in the family and partly to the concentration of the Jews in large cities. Here the circle for social intercourse is wider, whereas in towns with a small number of resident Jewish families marriages between blood-relations were more frequent.

Doctors at present are on the whole agreed that inter-marriage between relations is not harmful when the parents are in a perfect state of health, which is very rare. Certain minor physical or mental defects are common, and in marriages between close relatives it is very probable that both husband and wife suffer from the same defect which they will transmit to their children in an aggravated form. It has been proved that deaf-muteness is frequent in children of such intermarriages, and apparently results from an accumulation of nervous disorders unimportant in the parents. On the other hand there is also the

probability that similar talents exist on both sides and will be transmitted to the children in a heightened form, For good and evil intermarriages in the family lead to an intensification of qualities in the children.

In Europe growing attention is paid to eugenic principles in marriage, and also among the Jews the unfit increasingly avoid having children, which leads to a "self-purification of the race". Further, the public should be enlightened with regard to the dangers of intermarriage in the family and marriages at too early an age, which have almost completely disappeared among the European Jews, but are still frequent in the Near East.